

URBAN DISTRICT OF LYMM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1967

Including the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
LYMM.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In submitting this Report for 1967 I find myself in considerable difficulty, because, Dr. Stalker, who was your Medical Officer of Health for the bulk of 1967, resigned in September, and I became your Acting Medical Officer of Health from that date to the end of the year.

Therefore, I confine myself to the presentation of statistics and the bulk of the Report is presented by the Public Health Inspector.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

E. H. GORDON,

Acting Medical Officer
of Health.

1967

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman : Mr. W.L. Boon, J.P.,

Vice-Chairman : Mr. J. Thomason, Jnr., C.C., J.P.,
Mr. K.C.H. Bartlett
Mr. J.F. Chappell (Vice-Chairman of the Health
and Slum Clearance Committee)
Mr. O. Davies
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Slum Clearance Committee)
Mr. H.M.H. Ley
Mr. G.L. Lythgoe
Mr. J.E. Marsh
Mr. J.C. Ritchie
Mr. B.J. Thornton

Staff of the Public Health Department

Dr. R. Stalker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned
Medical Officer of Health 17.9.67)

Dr. E.H. Gordon, M.D. D.P.H.,
Acting Medical Officer of Health

Mr. R.T. Sucksmith, M.P.H.I.A. Cert. Inspector
of Meat and Other Foods
Public Health Inspector

Mrs. I. Sidley
Clerk/Typist

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area ... ... ... ...	... ...	4,242 acres
Height above sea level - 40 ft. (Statham)	195 ft. (Jolly Thresher,	
Higher Lane) and 80 ft. (Lymm Village)		
Population (Registrar General estimate Mid. 1967) ...		8,700
Number of inhabited dwellings		3,021
Average number of persons per dwelling		2.88
Rateable Value of the District		£273,603
Product of a penny rate		£1,250
General Rate	11/6d.	in the £

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Births</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Tctal</u>
Live Births - Legitimate		105	84	189
- Illegitimate		10	6	16
Total		115	90	205
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population				23.80

BIRTH RATE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

<u>Birth Rates</u>	1906	1914	1926	1936	1946	1956	1966	1967
LYMM	24.5	21.4	13.2	13.7	17.6	17.4	19.4	23.8
ENGLAND & WALES	28.6	24.5	23.1	16.3	19.4	16.0	17.7	17.2

At the beginning of the century Lymm had a high birth rate which dropped to quite a low level in the twenties and thirties and then rose steadily. The rise and fall of the birth rate shows a similar trend to the rates for England and Wales, but with the influx of younger couples to the area in the last few years, the birth rate has been slightly above the national rate.

Illegitimate Births (as a percentage of total births)

	1906	1914	1926	1936	1946	1956	1966
LYMM	2.5	4	5.3	1.2	8	5	3.1
ENGLAND & WALES	4.3	4.5	4.8	4.8	6.5	5.7	7.3

Stillbirths

Male 1 Female 2 Total 3

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 12.2

Stillbirth rate for England and Wales 14.8

Deaths of Infants

Male Female Total

Under 1 week 2 - 2

" 4 weeks 2 - 2
" 1 year 2 1 3

" 1 year 2 1 3

All infants who died and all stillbirths were legitimate

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)

15

Infant Mortality Rate for ENGLAND AND WALES

18.3

Infant Mortality

Rates 1906 1914 1926 1936 1946 1956 1966 1967

LYMM 132 46 8.2 36 44.4 8.5 19.9

ENGLAND
& WALES 146 100 70 59 43 26.9 19.0

It is very pleasing to note the steady decrease over the years of Infant Mortality Rates.

<u>Deaths</u>	Male	43	Female	53	Total	96
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Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.1
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DEATH RATE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	11.2
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<u>Death Rates</u>	1906	1914	1926	1936	1946	1956	1966	1967
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LYMM	15.4	12.0	10.5	10.7	11.7	11.7	11.93	11.1
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ENGLAND & WALES	-	21.8	11.6	12.1	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.2
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	125
Food Poisoning	1
Dysentery	1
Whooping Cough	4

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

General Hospital accommodation is provided at Warrington and Altrincham while a few cases of a special nature are admitted to hospitals in Manchester. Lymm is in the area served by the Liverpool Region Hospital Board.

LABORATORY SERVICES

An efficient and helpful service is provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester. Specimens are collected daily from Altrincham or sent by post in suitable containers.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
LYMM.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report including all statistics for the period 1st January, 1967 to 31st December, 1967.

The Health and Slum Clearance Committee assisted by the Housing Estates Committee can be proud of their achievements in the housing field in that at the close of the year being reported on there were seventeen Standard Grants approved and one Discretionary Grant approved.

Apart from housing there have been no unusual or particular problems whether specifically reported on, the bulk of the work being taken up with the normal routine that one can expect in a Health Department.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members for their support during the year and Mrs. I.. Sidley for yet another year of conscientious work.

I am, Your obedient servant,

R. T. SUCKSMITH,

Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDING INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Work places/Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licenced Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Visits for purposes of Building Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	296
Visits for Council Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1260
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Miscellaneous Housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Inspection Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Visits in connection with Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the area is served by water from the Warrington Water Department who by arrangement take water samples all of which during the year proved satisfactory.

The results of samples taken are as under :-

Total number of bacteriological samples	...	...	45
Samples free from Coliform bacteria	...	...	44
Samples free from faecal coli	...	...	45

The following is the latest chemical analysis of water taken from the supply after softening.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and colourless
Odour	...	...	...	...	Very slightly chlorine
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	7.65
Taste	...	...	...	...	not unusual

- parts per million -

Total solids	...	...	...	...	467
Nitrogen as free & saline ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0
Nitrogen as nitrites	...	...	...	...	nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	...	...	...	...	3.2
Chlorides, as Cl	...	...	...	...	92
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	...	...	0.2
Total hardness	...	...	...	...	161
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	...	161
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	...	0
Alkalinity	...	...	...	...	180
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.17
Potassium, as K	...	...	...	...	3.5
Anionic synthetic detergents	...	...	...	...	-
Manganese, as Mn	...	...	...	...	-
Cyanides and thiocyanates	...	...	...	...	-
Poisonous metals	...	...	...	...	-
Phenol	...	...	...	...	-

FOOD INSPECTIONS

The following list of foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered by the shopkeeper for me to dispose of.

Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95	"
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	"
Rice Puddings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	"
Tinned meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	"
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132	"
Milk and Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	"
Pie Fillings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	"
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	"
Potted Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	jars
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	lbs.
Raw Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	lbs.
Frozen Foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	382	pkts.
Ice-Creams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	pkts.

The Cheshire County Council are the food authority for this area and I am indebted to Mr. WK Nattrass, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department, for the following details of samples taken during the year.

Nature of sample	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Calamine Lotion	1	
Cheese Spread	1	
Cream - double	1	
Flavouring essence - vanilla	1	
Gravy browning	1	
Lemon Cheese	1	
Milk - fresh	24	
Mint jelly	1	
Orange crush	1	
Orange drink	2	
Sausages - pork	3	
Turkey - minced	1	
Vodka	1	
Yeastvite Tablets	1	
Zinc & Caster Oil Ointment	1	
Total	41	nil

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses operating within the area. All the butchers get their meat from outside slaughterhouses.

MILK SUPPLY

There are within the area 16 distributors retailing Sterilised Milk; 7 retailing Pasteurised Milk; 11 retailing Ultra Heat Treated Milk and 1 retailing Untreated Milk.

There are no dairies in the area licensed by the County Council as pasteurisers.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

122 samples of milk were taken for examination by the Cheshire County Council, the details of results of the tests carried out were as follows :-

	<u>Methylene</u> <u>Blue Test</u>		<u>Phosphatase</u> <u>Test</u>		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	-	-	-	-	-
T.T. Milk	12	2	1	-	15
Pasteurised Milk	43	-	48	-	91
Sterilised Milk	-	-	-	-	-
 Totals	55	2	49	-	106

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>		<u>Turbidity Test</u>		Pass	Fail	Total
	Nega-	Posi-					
	tive	tive					
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.T. Milk	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pasteurised Milk	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sterilised Milk	-	-	12	-	-	-	12
 Totals	3	-	13	-	-	-	16

MILK SUPPLIES - BRUCELLA ABORTUS

There is only one dairy herd in the district from which raw milk is sold to the public and during the year the County Council took samples relative to the above as shown in the table below.

By reason of the Brucella Positive Samples it was necessary on four different occasions during the year to serve a Section 20 Notice under the Milk and Dairies General Regulations 1959, prohibiting the sale of the milk without prior heating treatment.

	<u>Total Submitted</u>	<u>Number Brucella Positive</u>
Bulk Samples	-	-
Dealers Samples	18	3
Individual Cow Samples	90	4
 Total	108	7

ICE-CREAM

There are 28 premises in the area now registered for the sale of ice-cream. In all cases the ice-cream is prepacked and sold under satisfactory conditions.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The following is a summary of the various food premises in the district :-

Grocers & General Provision Dealers	...	...	27
Butchers	....	....	8
Greengrocers and/or Fishmongers	....	....	5
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	1
Bakehouses	...	...	2
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	15
Confectioners	...	...	2

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Surveyor's Department is responsible for this service.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Despite the rural character of the area there are only nine properties from which pail closets have to be collected.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The amount of vandalism whilst not being excessive has been consistent. The maintenance and cleaning of the conveniences is the responsibility of the Surveyor's Department.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Sewage Works Manager, Mr. B. Parsonage working under the direction of the Surveyor is responsible for the working of the modern sewage works.

CLEAN AIR

Although the Council have not declared any smoke control areas, all post war Council Houses have been fitted with approved appliances and encouragement given to the burning of smokeless fuels where possible.

Lymm being a residential area is moving towards clean air by reason of the ever increasing popularity of central heating and gas fires.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The Slum Clearance Programme is almost completed. The type of cottage that was falling into disrepair and inevitably becoming Slum Clearance Property, is now much sought after and when purchased is renovated, either with or without grant aid and thus the necessity of taking Housing Act action becomes unnecessary.

HOUSING REPAIRS

The number of notices for repairs decreases annually and in fact only two preliminary notices and seven statutory notices were served during the year as detailed below.

The area is becoming split into two categories, Owner/Occupation and Council House, rented. All previously privately rented properties passing into the property market as they become vacant.

Defective woodwork	...	...	...	...	10
Blocked or broken drain	...	...	...	...	1
Plasterwork	...	...	...	...	1
Brickwork	...	...	...	...	4
Defective roof	...	...	...	...	3

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair during the year.

IMPROVEMENT TO DWELLINGS - HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

One application for Discretionary Grant was received and approved and seventeen applications for Standard Grant approved. This without a doubt is one of the most worthwhile methods of avoiding deterioration of property.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year treatment for the eradication of rats and mice has been carried out at the undermentioned properties. This service is carried out for me by the rodent operative, Mr. J. Goulden.

Rats	...	...	...	...	Private dwellings	89
					Business premises	17
Mice	...	...	...	...	Private dwellings	13
					Business premises	3
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	2
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	...	6
The Dane	...	...	...	...	...	3

ERADICATION OF INSECT PESTS

Wasps continue to be a nuisance and these are dealt with efficiently by Mr. J. Goulden who has been trained for this type of work. The call on the Local Authority as regards other insect pests is very slight because of the increased use of modern insecticide sprays.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is a list of the premises registered under this Act by the end of the year.

Class of premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year
Offices	1	15
Retail Shops	2	45
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	-	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	17
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-

The number of people employed in the registered premises are as follows :-

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	76
Retail Shops	148
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	11
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	119
Total	354

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

During the year 11 inspections of factories and workplaces were made, as follows:-

Premises	No. on Register	Inspec	Written Notices	Prose-cuted	Occupiers
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	2	-	-	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	9	-	-	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' premises)	2	-	-	-	
Totals	37	11	-	-	

There were no defects discovered at the time of the visits.

CARAVANS

There are three individual caravan sites within the area where permission has been granted under the Town and Country Planning Act used for dwelling purposes. There are no multiple caravan sites licensed within the area.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1928 and 1936

There are 15 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit under the above legislation by the Council.

The Cheshire County Fire Brigade readily co-operate by inspecting all fire precautions on request, a service which I find invaluable.

